00392

1963/05/00

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

STATUS REPORT
OF
COUNTERINSURGENCY PROJECTS
IN
THAILAND, VIET-NAM, AND CAMBODIA

MAY

1963

PREPARED BY
TASK FORCE SOUTHEAST ASIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

Group 3
Downgraded at 12 year intervals,
not automatically declassified.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLK-99-99
By NARA, Date 5/22/00

CAMBODIA

GENERAL EVALUATION FOR MAY

On the negative side:

1. State visit by Liu Shao-chi was the occasion for joint reaffirmation of friendship and reiteration of Chicom pledges of support for Cambodia, with emphasis on complete identity of views on many issues.

2. In aftermath of Liu visit, press attention focussed on security measures necessitated by plot to assassinate Liu and Prince Sihanouk, in which ROC and SVN were implicated.

3. Four incidents on the SVN border were the subject of RKG communications, in two of which the presence of white officers was featured and in one of which firing of rockets from planes was charged. There were no deaths, and only one incident was the occasion for ICC and military attaches' investigations.

4. Thai planes were targets for AA defense units at Poipet on May 29, the Cambodians charging that the planes were over Cambodia and the Thai alleging they were over Thailand.

5. Reports of food poisonings in the border provinces were tied to the defoliants campaign in South Viet-Nam.

6. The incidents at Hué drew considerable unfavorable comment in Cambodia.

7. Negotiations with the DRVN resulted in laying the groundwork for commercial air service between Hanoi and Phnom Penh, and a forthcoming visit by Ho-chi-Minh was announced.

On the positive side:

1. On tour in the provinces, Prince Sihanouk took up again his bitter attacks against the extreme leftists. Concrete moves against them were initiated, namely plans for a referendum and changes in leading directorships of the semi-official press.

2. The US National Exhibition at Phnom Penh drew record crowds and was in every way a great success. In a statement taped for VOA, Prince Sihanouk praised the Exhibition, thanked the President and the Ambassador, and called the US Cambodia's "greatest friend."

3. A relatively new extreme leftist newspaper was suspended by the RKG.

Project	Status	Comment
1. Military Equipment		
Objective: To provide moderate amounts of US military equipment.	$2.2 million deferred items approved for funding in FY63, total MAP $12.3 million.	Remaining problem of funding about $1 million in consumables is under consideration in AID and DOD.
2. Military Budget Support		
Objective: To contribute to the support of the military budget.	Unchanged.	
3. Frontier Battalions		
Objective: To provide equipment for two frontier battalions, primarily engineer units.	Approval granted in principle to conversion of two existing infantry battalions into frontier battalions, subject to devising funding in FY63 program.	DOD expects to be in a position to recommend funding action this month.
4. Infantry Battalions		
Objective: To equip three infantry battalions for deployment in northeast frontier area.	Unchanged.	
5. Road Equipment		
Objective: To rehabilitate repairable road equipment.	Unchanged.	

6. Village Kits

Objective: To provide six village kits for village construction and relocation to new sites.	Unchanged.

7. Police Equipment

Objective: To provide material and technical assistance for civil police force.	Unchanged.